

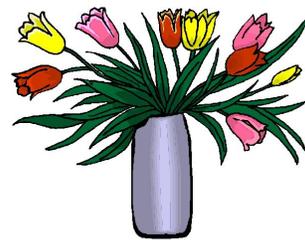


## ***“The Voice”* Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton**

201 Troendle Street SW; PO Box 413  
Mapleton, MN 56065

**APRIL 2016**

*Address Service Requested*



*“The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship  
of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated  
to the Maple River community.”*

The United Church of Mapleton  
PO Box 413, 201 Troendle St SW  
Mapleton, MN 56065



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF MAPLETON

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

9:00am Sunday Worship  
 9:00am Nursery Care  
 9:15am PreK– 2nd Grade Sunday School  
 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship

**1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month: 6-7pm**  
**G.I.F.T. (Generations In Faith Together)**  
**A meal will be served.**

## APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:00am Worship with <b>Communion and                      Loaves &amp; Fishes Food                      Shelf Collection</b> 10:00 Choir Practice 10:00am Conf. Class		<b>5</b> 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder  1:00pm Quilting	<b>6</b> 6:00-7:00pm GIFT: <i>Generations In                      Faith Together</i>		<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:30—10:30am Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran
<b>10</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Conf. Class	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Women's Fellowship	<b>12</b> 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder  1:00pm Quilting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:30 p.m. Congregational Relationships Coordinator (CRC) Team meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16 RECYCLE!</b> 
<b>17</b> 9:00am Worship with <b>Youth Center                      Collection</b> 10:00am Conf. Class		<b>19</b> 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder  8:00am The Voice articles for <b>May</b> are due  1:00pm Quilting	<b>20</b> 6:00-7:00pm GIFT: <i>Generations In                      Faith Together</i>  7:00 p.m. Church Council		<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00am Worship		<b>26</b> 6:30am Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder  1:00pm Quilting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

# The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

April 2016  
Page 3

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Lay Leader	Jeff Gerdts	Warren Allevan	Darlene Fezler	Pam Foster
Head Usher	Sharon Shuck	Sharon Shuck	Sharon Shuck	Sharon Shuck
Greeters	Dan and Sue Prenzlow	Mabelle Larson		
Coffee Hour	Church Council	Women's Fellowship	Youth Center	Christian Education

## Church Financial Envelope

If for privacy and ease, please make a notation on the front of your envelope: **c/o Financial Secretary**. Thank you!



## Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call **Karen Stanton at (507) 327-8168** or **Joyce Johnson at 524-3727**. Please let them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to pray for if applicable, and whether or not you would like your request included in the church's public prayer list or if you'd prefer the request be kept privately within the prayer chain.

## Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

**Sunday, April 3rd, 2016** we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission. The United Church supports this mission on the **first Sunday** of each month.

Loaves & Fishes hours are Tuesdays from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00-Noon. The food shelf is always in need of volunteers to work. Please contact your church food shelf board member to volunteer!

## The Maple River Youth Center

**Sunday, April 17th, 2016** the Coffee Hour and Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at the youth center. The United Church supports this mission on the **third Sunday** of each month.

## Sign-Up for Lay Ministries!

Please sign-up for **Lay Leader, Greeter, Head Usher, Sunday School Teacher, and Communion Servers** on the bulletin board outside the main office. Thank you in advance for your service!

## How to Contact Pastor Ashley

Pastor Ashley's cell phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org). Her usual weekly schedule includes these times and places. *Monday* Sabbath. *Tuesday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Pastors' Preaching Text Study Group in Mankato, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Maple River Youth Center. *Wednesday* Community Office Hours at Maggie J's Restaurant 10:00-11:30 a.m., 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. church office, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study. *Friday* Sermon writing. At other times, she may be making pastoral visits or be serving elsewhere in the community. Please feel free to contact her for a visit or meeting!

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’” *John 21:15-17*

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

...well, now what? The end of March brought with it palms, communion, darkness, crucifixion, grief, waiting, and finally, the glory and joy of Easter resurrection. Now, as we enter April, how should we, as a church, focus our time of worship together? Fortunately, the Revised Common Lectionary (an ecumenical, three-year cycle of texts for Sunday morning worship) offers several options for preachers and congregations to consider as we seek to answer the question, “Well, now what?”

As the Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church says, “In North American culture, Easter is one day. In the church's reckoning of time, it lasts for fifty days! The resurrection of our Lord is so significant that the Revised Common Lectionary and calendar of the Christian year gives nearly one-sixth of the year to pondering and praising God in light of the resurrection life of Jesus Christ among the disciples and in the world.

In classic Christianity, the time after Easter was for ‘unpacking’ what had happened at Easter, particularly at the initiation of men, women, and children in baptism, anointing and the laying on of hands, and Eucharist.” Between now and Pentecost (the birth of the Christian Church) on May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be following a miniature built-in sermon series from the Revised Common Lectionary through the book of The Acts of the Apostles (also known simply as Acts). In particular, we will be looking at the actions, faith, and leadership of Simon called Peter, the one on whom Christ said he would build his church.

I hope that this focus on Acts will help us, as The United Church of Mapleton, learn more about how the early church was, often, not so very different from our own times. They, too, faced challenges of both the spiritual and practical realities of faith. And, in their lives as in ours, the Holy Spirit was quite active and powerful, although maybe not always in the same kinds of ways.

Another Discipleship Ministries resource says of this Acts Scripture series, “Preaching about resurrection and performing signs and wonders leads to life-altering, transformational things taking place in the book of Acts: persecution in some cases, wondrous belief in others. Healing, conversion and baptism, miracles, signs and wonders—Acts has it all! The readings from Acts during this season all give testimony to the power of the Holy Spirit to convert people to Christian discipleship.”

In the light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and as we stand in the heritage of the witness of the disciples throughout the ages, may we, too, experience a new conversion of our Christian discipleship and a fresh inflowing of the Holy Spirit into our lives of faith as The United Church of Mapleton.

Blessings,  
Pastor Ashley

## In Our Prayers

### Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Kathy Cramer, Janie Firstbrook, Mary Beth Fritz, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Marian Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- Those affected by mental illness, including anxiety and depression
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Jack Madsen, Sean Mallory, Bill Pfeffer, Roberta Ward
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- All those affected by the outbreak of the Zika virus and the serious health concerns suspected to be related to it
- All those affected by the recent cyclone in Fiji, which killed at least 21 people
- All those affected by the drought in Ethiopia, which is the worst the country has seen in over fifty years and has affected more than 10 million people



### The prayer requests and praises shared with the congregation during last month's worship services include:

#### Thanksgiving:

- For family celebrations filled with love, song, and dance
- And blessings to Louisa Belle on her birthday
- For Kathy Cramer's 96th birthday
- To God for the fun and entertainment of watching Maple River boys basketball team going to the state tournament
- For the promise of spring and new beginnings
- For the special music today from Pam Foster, Will Brice, and Pam Braunshausen
- To all who sent cards of greeting to me (Jack Madsen) after my accident. Nothing like being remembered and still being a part of everything!

#### Prayers:

- For a fun and safe snowmobile trip for Ty Shuck and the snowmobile club
- For a grandson who is having much difficulty in his life and too full of a plate
- Continuing for Phyllis Lindemann, who is facing a possible lung transplant
- For Sue Prenzlow's sister-in-law, Deb who is having bypass surgery on March 21st
- For Josephine Knewton as she recovers from a heart attack
- For my dad, Bob Smith, recovering from an illness

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Florence Schupbach, Jeff Whitaker's grandmother, who passed away on Saturday, February 27th, 2016. The funeral was held at Community Baptist Church of Tulsa on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The prayers and sympathies of The United Church of Mapleton are extended to the family and friends of Doug Crane, longtime youth leader at Calvary Baptist Church of Denver, who passed away on Tuesday, March 8th, 2016. The funeral was held at Calvary Baptist Church of Denver on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### Sunday Morning Wheelchair Assistance

If you are in need of wheelchair assistance on Sunday mornings, please let us know by calling the church office at (507) 524-3141 ahead of time to make arrangements **or** you may have an usher assist you on Sunday morning when you arrive at the church.

There is a ramp located on the east side of the church which can be utilized by parking in the east parking lot. If it is too difficult for you to push a wheelchair up the ramp, please feel free to contact an Usher or Deacon for assistance.

### Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations committee (PRC) exists to foster healthy and clear communication between pastor and congregation. PRC meetings are a regular and confidential means of support and accountability for the pastor.

PRC members keep their ear to the ground in the congregation to help keep the pastor in-the-know about possible issues or concerns, and they can bring constructive and addressable concerns to the pastor from the congregation.

**Our PRC members are Laura Fritz, Warren Allevan, and Joyce Johnson.**

### Pastoral Care Connections

If you or a family member is ill, in the hospital, is homebound, would like a pastoral care visit for any reason, or would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, **please let the church know!**

Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office to let us know so that we may serve you.

Pastor Ashley's phone number is: (507) 381-8199 and the church phone number is: (507) 524-3141. Thank you!

### Free Community Breakfast

On the second Saturday of each month, everyone in the community is invited to a free breakfast held at St. John Lutheran Church. See you **Saturday, April 9th**, from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

### Quilters Group

Quilters Group will be quilting every Tuesday afternoon  from 1:00-3:00 p.m. There is no need to be an experienced quilter as the group will be happy to teach you! You may tie quilts if you do not wish to sew.

### Senior Dining/Meals on Wheels of Mapleton

You are invited to dine at the Town & Country Leisure Center! Nutritious and delicious **Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m.** The cost of a meal is \$4.00, as a suggested donation for those 60+. Low-salt and diabetic meals are available. Stay afterwards to play cards or games and to enjoy the company of others.

Meals on Wheels is also available for those who wish to eat at home. Call Darlene at (507) 524-4868 for more information or to reserve your meal.

Meals are being furnished by Maple River School, Mapleton. You may also look for us on Facebook.

### Mission Kits

It is time to start collecting items for baby and hygiene kits. Please consider purchasing items (listed below) to be included into these much needed kits. Bring your items to the church and place in the boxes provided in the narthex/entry area. Thank you so much!

**Baby Care Kit** assembly items:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt (can be hand knitted or crocheted)
- Two receiving blankets; approximately 30 X 30 inches. (One can be hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

Items must be under 12 months in size.

Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

**Hygiene Kit** assembly items:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" X 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids brand

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure; remove excess air from bag, and seal.

### American Baptist Women's Ministries Spring Rally

This year the American Baptist Women's Ministries Spring Rally will be held at FBC Church of Eagle Grove, 1210 South Commercial, Eagle Grove, IA 50533, **Monday, April 4th from 9:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.** A Freewill offering will be accepted for the meeting and lunch.

Mercy Gonzalez-Barnes, American Baptist International Ministries Missionary will be the speaker for this year's rally. Mercy has served as a missionary with International Ministries since 2000. Mercy is now moving into regional work in her ministry. To register, contact Rita May Rossmun (515)824-3516.

### Dayton Oaks Camp

Spring Clean up days will be April 23rd and May 21st from 9:00-4:00 p.m. with lunch being served.

Camps for 2016 will be Card Making/Scrapbooking Weekend, April 29th-May 1st; Paintball Challenge, May 6th-7th; June 12th-July 29th Summer Camp Season; Family Camp and work week, week of July 4th; September 9th-11th, Men's Retreat; September 16th-17th, Fall Paintball Challenge. **Please view flyers posted in mail room on bulletin board.**

### Note from the Church Council

Starting in May, The Voice newsletter will have information on the current standings of finances and the budget. This will also be done quarterly.

### Women's Fellowship

March 14th, 2016

President Louise Webb opened our meeting with 10 women present. Darlene gave devotions based on Joy.

**Secretary Report:** None given, as there was no meeting held in February.

**Sonshine Committee:** Mabelle reported she sent out 4 birthday, one get-well and one sympathy card.

The Maple River wrestling banquet was held in the Fellowship Hall. Lenten soup supper for this month will be hosted by Louisa Belle and Roberta.

Darlene served lunch. Mabelle will serve next month's lunch. We rolled bandages and had a wonderful evening of fellowship with lots of laughter and good fun! Ladies of the church, please join us on the second Monday of each month.

Our next meeting date will be **April 11th at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Darlene Fezler, Secretary

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### Christian Education Report

March 31, 2016



#### **Palm Sunday Brunch:**

The month of March has been a busy one for Christian Education. One of the biggest events of the year is the Palm Sunday brunch. This year was no exception. Approximately 55 individuals participated in enjoying a very tasty brunch of cheesy hash brown potatoes, scrambled eggs with ham, muffins, applesauce, and several beverages: coffee, milk and orange juice.

Much appreciation is expressed to the many workers who helped make the brunch a success. Many hands did indeed make the work load lighter. Special thanks go to the men who lent their skills in dishwashing. Youth, including this year's Class of Confirmands, assisted with table set-up and setting on Saturday; and serving food and drink on Sunday. Many thanks to those who donated groceries for the brunch.

Free will donations from those participating in the meal, resulted in a profit of \$450. These proceeds become part of a summer camp fund for the youth, providing camp scholarships for our young people. Once again, thank you, everyone !

#### **Sunday School Update:**

Sunday School is continuing through the end of this school year. Volunteer teachers have been signing up; and, young children, approximately 5 and 6 years have attended. Attendance has been about 3 children each Sunday. We are still in need of additional volunteers, so please check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you feel called to teach.

Council Meeting, March 15, 2016, 7:05pm – 9:15pm

Attendees: Louise Webb, Ginny Kinzie, Keith McCutchen, Dave Byram, Pastor Ashley Whitaker, Dick Dietz, Chad Kunkel, Pam Foster, Marissa Pfeffer, Gary Fritz

Devotional and Prayer by Pam. Next week's devotional from Marissa

Reminder to send reports and meeting agenda requests to the Council Clerk before monthly meetings, so that they can be perused before hand and included in the agenda for the next meeting.

Secretary's Report: Copies from last month's meeting read by members.

*Approved by Chad, Seconded by Marissa*

Treasurer's Report: Keith

Pledge Report: Ginny

Church has spent over budget last 2 months.

*Reports Approved by Dave, Seconded by Chad*

Regarding having a list of preferred vendors, Dave indicated that there is a list and that Bob H. has it and he , Dave, will look into retrieving it. When preferred vendors list is obtained, Council/Dave/Robert S. will look to see if there needs to be additions or subtractions to the vendors list.

*Brain Storming:* How to relate to church members what the budget/spending is and the need to keep up with pledges and tithing.

(Possibilities) To put in The Voice newsletter the church's quarterly financial and budget standings. This will probably be done for the May Voice.

The April Voice will contain a “note” of the upcoming financial and budget fund update.

*Motion Approved by Dave, Seconded by Chad*

Congregational Relations Coordinator standing: Chad said that he will fill this position and ask others if they will co-chair with him.

*Motion Approved by Marissa, Seconded by Keith*

Binders will be given out to each head of office in the Council for organizing duties and activities for ease of transition and use by others.

Spiritual Gift Survey: Some members have completed the survey and those who have not will be sent one in the mail.

Prayer Stations: An explanation will be given of the prayer stations so people understand them and their use, better. Chad will do a survey on the “likeability” of said prayer stations and the music played during their use.

Confidentiality Agreements: Marissa will adapt for church use, the one from her work.

Regarding bids for church/parsonage projects: There will be at least 2 bids per project obtained from contractors; a “Request for Quote” will be formatted.

Pastor's Report: Approved

A church memorial will be gathered to go to Ottawa University in Kansas to honor and remember Jeff's grandmother who passed away.

Tabled Discussion: Prayer support group for persons with mental health issues, or those with family members with mental health concerns; Community Open Support Group.

Closing Prayer by Ashley

Report Respectfully Submitted,  
Clerk, Gary Fritz